

# THE GLOBAL LINE

*Serving the U.S. Army Field Support Command*

DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9

## Volunteers lend a helping hand

*JMC employees work to restore normalcy in Katrina-torn Biloxi, Miss.*

**BILOXI, Miss.** -- Television coverage of destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina painted a horribly clear picture of devastation. But there's nothing like seeing it in person -- and doing something about it.

"It just takes your breath away," said Ann Paul, a Joint Munitions Command employee who volunteered to help with relief operations. "There really are no words to describe it. I was like everyone else, glued to the TV when it first happened, but I just didn't realize how bad it was. TV doesn't do it justice."

Paul, along with two other JMC employees, Sharon Meyers and Debbie Marshall, spent two months, between October and December, helping the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They helped organize and execute the agency's distribution

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*Photo provided by Sharon Meyers*

JMC employee Sharon Meyers, shown here in Biloxi, Miss., volunteered recently to assist with relief operations.

## SES family grows by two



*Photo by Tony Lopez, EL Hamm, Contractor*

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commanding general, Army Field Support Command, places the Senior Executive Service pins on (left) D. Scott Welker, deputy to the commander, AFSC; and (right) Jim Loehrl, program director for the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) and director for Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC) during a ceremony on Nov. 29.

*For more information see page 3.*

## On the Record: Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, CG AFSC

On Christmas night in 1776, General George Washington led a force of about 2,400 Soldiers from the Continental Army across the Delaware River into New Jersey, where they executed an effective sneak attack against Hessian troops resting in winter quarters. The surprising and decisive victory was a turning point in the Revolutionary War, and proved that independence from England would eventually be earned on the battlefield by American patriots.

Washington's crossing of the Delaware was the first of many times that U.S. military forces would spend the holiday season in combat. Throughout our nation's history, Americans in uniform have fought in defense of freedom during a season that is normally set aside for celebration. Soldiers from both the Union and Confederate armies spent several holidays in Civil War encampments, and the "doughboys" in General Pershing's expeditionary force of World War I felt little holiday cheer as they experienced the horrors of trench warfare. World War II's Battle of the Bulge was waged during the 1944 holiday season in bitter cold and deep snow; a few decades later, holiday cards and letters were addressed to U.S.



servicemembers who patrolled the steaming jungles of Vietnam.

It will be no different during the 2005 holiday season. As the folks back home gather with family and friends, brave Americans in uniform – along with civilian and contractor employees, many of them from this Command, who have been deployed forward – will be serving in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Korea, aboard ships at sea, and at other places along the front lines of freedom. Some will execute perilous missions and strike another blow in the war on terror, which knows no holiday. Others will stand guard at remote outposts made all the lonelier by distance and separation, during a season traditionally

marked by warmth and togetherness.

In this season of giving, let us never forget what they have given for us. In this season of hope, let us hope and pray for the successful completion of all their missions, and for their safe return. In this season of peace, let us look forward to the day when the battle against fear and terror and for hope and opportunity is at long last won, and when the world can know lasting peace.

There may come a day when everyone can come home for the holidays, and when no American needs to spend this special season in a faraway place in conflict with our nation's enemies. Until that day comes, our men and women in uniform should be on our minds and in our hearts throughout the holiday season. Their sacrifices, have given us the greatest holiday gift of all...the privilege of living in the greatest nation on Earth.

I wish every one of you and your families joy and peace during the holiday season, and health and prosperity during the New Year to come. May you know all the wonders and delights that this season has to offer, and may 2006 be your best year ever!

### THE GLOBAL LINE

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## AFSC gains two more SES employees

**ROCK ISLAND, Ill.** – Hundreds gathered on Nov. 29 as two Army Field Support Command employees were promoted to the senior executive service in a ceremony on Rock Island Arsenal.

James G. Loehrl and D. Scott Welker were appointed to the SES and fill positions -- equivalent to flag officer assignments in the active military service. SES appointees carry out public policy at the highest levels within the Army.

Loehrl serves as program director for the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) and directs AFSC's Principal Assistant for Contracting (PARC). Welker is the deputy commander of AFSC.

The ceremony brings the number of SES positions on the Arsenal to four and reflects the changing nature and growth of the AFSC mission.

During the ceremony, both men offered comments on the importance of the Army Field Support Command's mission.

"We must think and act tactically, because we serve American men and women who are living day

in and day out in a tactical environment," said Welker. "Every choice we make as a command must be made with the Soldier in mind."

Loehrl spoke at length about the critical support AFSC provides to U.S. forces in combat zones and the responsibility a position of this nature brings.

"I don't know of anything that I could do that could possibly be more relevant than being a senior leader in this organization," Loehrl said. "I am humbled by the confidence that has been placed in me."

AFSC's mission includes logistics support to units stationed in the U.S. as well as forward-based support to units stationed around the world and in every combat theater. It produces and manages conventional ammunition of all kinds through the Joint Munitions Command. AFSC also manages pre-positioned stocks of combat equipment stored around the globe and LOGCAP, which contracts for combat service support missions to civilian companies.

-- Nikki St. Amant, AFSC Public Communications

## Secretary of the Army tours repair sites



Photo by Chuck Sprague, AFSB-SWA

**Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey** inspects repair parts at a facility in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**—The Secretary of the Army arrived Nov. 22 for a brief visit with senior staff, dinner with Soldiers and a tour of the Army Materiel Command's aviation and tactical vehicle repair sites.

Dr. Francis J. Harvey was escorted by the Commanding General of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Lt. Gen. Steven Whitcomb and his Deputy, Maj. Gen. James A. Kelley.

The Army Materiel Command (Forward) Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason and Army Field Support Brigade-Southwest Asia Commander, Col. Charles Wilson joined the tour of AMC aviation and tactical vehicle repair sites.

"The Army civilian work force is extremely important to the mission," said Harvey. "We couldn't complete this mission without our civilian support. You've played a huge role in the up-armor effort at our depots and arsenals as well as here in Kuwait. You are a vital part of our team," he said.

The Army Secretary visited with Soldiers, Army civilian employees and contractors assigned to the repair facilities. He was briefed on helicopter repair and maintenance, up-armor operations and combat vehicle repair.

— Charles Sprague, AFSB-SWA Public Affairs



## AFSBN-Afghanistan supports Pakistan relief effort



Left: A CH-47 U.S. Army helicopter transports Pakistani earthquake refugees at the Chaklala International Airport, Islamabad, Pakistan. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer Terry Taylor). Right: Helicopter view of the devastation in a Pakistani village. (U.S. Army photo by Chris Dunne).

*Andrew Lawson is a British civilian assigned to the Army Field Support Battalion-Hythe, England, and deployed to AFSBN-Afghanistan. Assigned as a Lean Six Sigma Process Improvement Specialist, Lawson provided reach-back capabilities to the Pakistan earthquake relief Mission and wrote his observations in this feature story:*

A 7.6 Richter scale earthquake devastated the Kashmir district in Northern Pakistan on Oct. 8.

The temblor caused approximately 80,000 fatalities, 74,000 injuries and left approximately 250,000 people homeless. The quake was situated deep in the rugged Himalayan foothills of Azad, Kashmir. More than 60 countries responded with aid to the area. India, who has fought three wars with Pakistan since 1947, delivered aid by helicopter, train and plane.

Thousands of people were trapped and with no ground support, they were unable to

negotiate the crumpled bridges, rockslides, or impassable roads. Families in isolated hamlets, traumatized by the earthquake, were clinging to the steep slopes of the Pir Panjal Mountains.

This stunningly beautiful but brutal countryside deep in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan could swallow up more casualties with its winter snowfalls. The road up Azad Kashmir's Jhelum Valley would soon be re-opened, but it would take at least six weeks for the road near Neelum Valley. Without adequate food and shelter, even more families could soon perish.

The disaster required immediate help from the United States. The U.S. Army summoned help from the Army Materiel Command's "logistics specialists" deployed in Afghanistan. AMC's unique blend of logistics and operational skills provided communications, transportation and construction vehicles, electronics, command oversight, parts expedition, fuel, food and medical supplies for the humanitarian relief effort.

A few hours after feeling the quake activity hundreds of miles away in Bagram, Afghanistan, Task Force Griffin flew eight helicopters to Qasim Airbase in Pakistan to spearhead the relief.

Four days later, Col. Gary Potts, the Coalition Joint Task Force-76 logistics officer, determined that he needed one compact logistics cell able to represent both Coalition Forces Land Component Command Logistics element (CJTF-76) and one that was capable of fundamental logistics, transportation, construction, and contracting, that had a "reach-back" to national assets.

The Commander of AMC's Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan was tapped.

Lt. Col. Marty Binder flew to Qasim Oct. 15, and was soon followed by his adjutant, Chief Warrant Officer Terry Taylor.

Taylor immediately began accountability of personnel in the rapidly developing complex, joint and multi-national environment. Chris Dunne, a highly skilled allied

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## Kuwait repair site begins "Tiger" repairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**—A ribbon cutting ceremony was held here on Thanksgiving Day at the Forward Repair Activity to start another major tactical vehicle repair mission on the Army's Abrams M1A1 tank engine.

"We've brought the facility from Camp Doha, Kuwait, to Camp Arifjan's FRA temporarily, until a new building now in the construction phase, is built here," said FRA Division Chief Randy Hughes. "In the meantime, we are making room in the FRA and we're ready to fix or replace tank engines in support of our combat tracked vehicles in theater."

The M1A1 tank engine is repaired in Kuwait to save time and transportation delays for the 62-ton vehicle said the division chief, deployed from Anniston Army Depot, Ala.

Hughes said the tank engine has been modified in the rebuilding procedure to give it more hours' operating time, and is called a "tiger engine." New computerized chips have been installed that diagnose specific engine problems. The micro chips also record a



*Photo by Charles Sprague, AFSB-SWA*

**A newly designed and re-built Abrams M1A1 "Tiger" tank engine the Forward Repair Activity will use to replace un-repairable engines. Anniston Army Depot-trained mechanics are deployed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait for this project.**

"cradle to grave" maintenance report on each engine.

The FRA chief said that the "Lean Six Sigma" process, an approach for improving measurable results in virtually every industry, was implemented with the new operations to ensure high productivity.

If the engine is beyond capacity to repair it here, it will be replaced and the bad engine will be sent to Anniston Army Depot

for a complete breakdown and re-build. The engine will then be shipped back to Kuwait for replacement into another tank, Hughes said.

Honeywell Corporation technicians and Anniston Army Depot civilian mechanics perform the repairs and replacement of the re-designed "Tiger" engine.

**— Charles Sprague, AFSB-SWA Public Affairs**

## Tooele leads the way in MILVAN repairs



*U.S. Army Photo by Kathy Anderson*

**Tooele Army Depot employee Jimmy Martinez prepares to inspect a MILVAN.**

**TOOELE, UTAH** -- Tooele Army Depot is a strategic location for one of the Army's military van

(container) repair facilities.

Four skilled welders are certified as milvan inspectors. They repair an average of 12 milvans a month and have conducted repairs on commercial containers on an "as needed" basis. They also fabricate restraining bars as necessary to facilitate shipment of ammunition items. Since the start of the Global War on Terrorism, TEAD has repaired or refurbished nearly 800 containers.

The facility consists of a metal building equipped with the required

welding and metal repair equipment. The facility is designed to accommodate the repairs set by inspection criteria.

The milvan fleet has a limited number of containers, and repairs are necessary to ensure resources are available to support the depot's major out loading requirements.

The repair facility plays a significant role in Tooele Army Depot's ability to support the warfighter.

**-- Kathy Anderson, TEAD Public Affairs**



## AFSBn-Iraq wins defense logistics award



*U.S. Army Photos provided by L3 Communications*

**Left: Dennis Mirabile, L-3 Vertex program manager, and Col. Carl J. Cartwright, deputy commander, Army Field Support Command, accept the 2005 “In-Theater Contractor-Military Collaboration Award” in Washington D.C. Right: Members of the Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq and L3 Communications’ employees pose in front of two Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs) waiting to receive add-on-armor.**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq and L3 Communications, as collaborative partners, won the “In-Theater Contractor-Military Collaboration Award” for the Add-on-Armor program in Iraq.

A ceremony was held in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 29 to honor recipients of the 2005 Defense Logistics Awards. General Benjamin Griffin, commander of Army Materiel Command, served as guest speaker for the ceremony.

The Army/L3 team earned the award by joining forces to install armor plating on thousands of vehicles, thus providing increased protection against enemy threats and saving lives.

Established to honor and promote Department of Defense and defense industry logisticians, a primary goal of the Defense Logistics Awards Program is to recognize people and/or organizations for exemplary performance.

“Expeditionary logistics in a combat zone is the toughest test of teamwork,” said Lt. Col. Michael Bird, commander, Army Field Support Battalion-Luxembourg, who commanded Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq during the period of the award. “At

our battalion in Iraq, the Army and its contract work force formed one team to provide Soldiers the very best equipment and services. It’s a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the hundreds of people who earned this prestigious award.”

The Add-on-Armor Program, which earned the award, upgrades protection on both light and heavy tactical wheeled vehicle fleets throughout Iraq. The program began in April 2004. To date, the AFSBn-Iraq and L3/Ducom partnership has successfully and safely installed armor on thousands of vehicles.

Dennis Mirabile, L-3 Vertex program manager, accepted the award with Army Col. Carl Cartwright, deputy commander of Army Field Support Command. Mirabile remarked, “What started as a small Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) team has developed into a critically important Tactical Wheeled Service Center (TWSC),” he said. “We now have 150 employees supporting this effort with Add-On-Armor and quality vehicle maintenance services and repairs. This mission to support the warfighter is being fulfilled under difficult circumstances and would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our employees and Soldier-partners.”

**-- AFSC Public Communications**

## Aid *Continued from page 4*

tradesman from AFSBn-Hythe, England, currently assigned to Afghanistan, deployed to help supervise the construction of the base camp. Add a contracting officer, engineer captain, clerk and a few stellar non-commissioned officers, and the team was ready for anything. Wayne Seidler, from the AFSBn-Afghanistan Support Plans and Operations office provided essential communications between Qasim and Bagram, aligning AMC efforts with those of CJTF-76. This small team allowed the commander to rely on a single, reliable point of contact amidst all the impending chaos of providing logistics across the Pakistani border.

Also at Binder's disposal were master mechanics, supply specialists, fabricators, quality assurance specialists, transport specialists and logistics personnel ready to deploy at a moments notice in support of the operation. The Qasim base camp allowed members of TF Griffin to concern itself with the task at hand, one that was very likely the most challenging endeavor most of the pilots had ever flown.

Day after day, eight to ten hours of "stick time" took its toll on the pilots and the crews. The daily routine was a wake-up at 4:45 a.m., staging forward at Chaklala International Airfield in Islamabad; flying north to provide supplies to starving refugees and evacuating patients back to Chaklala. Ten days of continuous flying delivered more than 850,000 pounds of emergency supplies and the evacuation of more than 1,000 patients and refugees.

The next assignment was to prepare for the TF Griffin transition to TF Quake. Binder's small contingency worked to receive the incoming brigade at the Bagram RSOI (reception, staging, onward movement, and integration) site, and return TF Griffin back to Afghanistan to conduct its primary mission of fighting the insurgency in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

But first, Qasim Airfield had to undergo expansion, courtesy of the United States Army. Designing, funding, and constructing a 24-pad helicopter landing area does not fall under its normal duty description, but AFSBn-AF's 10 months of experience building the Equipment Support Activity in Afghanistan made it the likely choice to oversee this project. In less than



*U.S. Army Photo by Chris Dunne*

**Pakistani villagers await the arrival of relief supplies orchestrated by logisticians from the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan.**

a week, the airfield expansion began, allowing the incoming brigade the operational space needed to land, refuel, and load humanitarian supplies. Add an AFSBn-designed kitchen, laundry point, toilets, showers, and American Forces Network, and the base-camp was complete.

By far, the humanitarian mission in Pakistan was one of the most rewarding and fulfilling missions the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians have undertaken.

The crews delivered much needed supplies and evacuated critically wounded patients. The mission also strengthened political and military ties between the United States and Pakistan. Within the Army, logisticians and operators quickly began to appreciate the contribution of the Army Field Support Battalion concept and all the assets it brings to bear in a crisis or contingency operation.

From showers to runways, from factory to foxhole, the Army Field Support Battalion is a combat multiplier, a force to reckon with, and is clearly here to stay.

**-- Andrew Lawson, AFSBn-Afghanistan**

# Katrina

Continued from page 1



Photos provided by Sharon Meyers

**Left:** This New Orleans neighborhood stood as an example of some of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. **Right:** Ann Paul and Sharon Meyers visited New Orleans' French Quarter to unwind.

of trailers to local schools, firehouses and municipal agencies affected by Katrina.

"They have no infrastructure," said Meyers. "It's really, really ugly. I was expecting it to be bad, but not this bad."

Even three months after the Category 5 hurricane made landfall, the three spent 12-hour days working to return the area to some sort of regular routine.

"It's important to get some normalcy back in these communities, get the governments running, the basic services restored, the kids back in school," Paul said. "They are just hanging out in the streets, playing in the debris."

Meyers took the volunteer mission a little more personally than the others. She lost her home to a flash flood in 1991 and knows all about tragedy.

"I felt I could relate to these people," the grandmother of two said. "I thought it was time, it was my turn, to give something back. It is amazing how resilient these people are."

The trio can tell tales of families still living in shelters, the smell of rotting debris that permeates the air and huge areas of coastal Mississippi that remain without electricity or running water.

But they agreed its tragedy that brings out the best in people.

"We were all there helping," said Meyers. "It truly is amazing how you can bring people together from all over the country and we bond so quickly. The people we are helping are very appreciative."

Living conditions for the three volunteers weren't five-star accommodations, but were exponentially better than those of the people they were trying to help. They stayed in a real building, with a real roof on it, and had access to the well-stocked commissary on Keesler Air Force Base, which served as a home away from home, week-in and week-out.

"These people have it bad," Meyers pointed out. "South of the railroad tracks and all along Highway 90, you wouldn't even know clean-up has started. There are almost no stores open. People have to drive long distances to find a Wal-mart or a grocery store, and they wait in some very long lines."

Paul said the scope of the destruction made it hard to appreciate what she was doing at times. At one point, she spent a Saturday visiting a moldy New Orleans and said, while it was eerily empty, she was horrified that the city received so much more national attention, given the carnage in Mississippi.

"I drove over there one Saturday morning and it was pretty much a ghost town, but it wasn't as bad as Biloxi," she said. "I mean the whole Gulf Coast was destroyed, completely! My god, Mississippi is so much worse. You think, 'How is this helping at all?' Then you see these kids going into the buildings you have provided for them, getting back to class, getting back to normal, and you realize how much you actually helped the community."

— Nikki St. Amant, AFSC  
Public Communications